

from Spain during that period. As a result of this exodus, many Jewish families established themselves in the then Danish West Indies which are now the U.S. Virgin Islands. Some of the surnames which date back to that time are still present in the Virgin Islands today such as: Maduro, Castro, Sasso, Levin, Bornn, and Monsanto.

The St. Thomas Synagogue is also revered as among one of the most architecturally interesting buildings on St. Thomas. This one story, three-bay front building measures forty feet by fifty feet, is rectangular in shape. Its foundations, made of masonry with lime mortar and plaster, and its walls, made of brick and cut stone load-bearing masonry walls with lime mortar and plaster, are still strong and sound. Its interior is immaculate with preserved artifacts and furniture centuries old. The most fascinating aspect is its flooring—13" marble tiles and covered with one inch of loose sand, a poignant reminder of the time when they had to worship in secret. The sand on the floor is a remnant of the days of the Marranos, Jews during the Spanish Inquisition who were forced to convert to Christianity but who secretly practiced their Judaism. Since practicing their faith was punishable by death, they met in cellars with sand covering the floor in order to muffle the sounds of their prayers.

On Friday, September 15, 2000, the United States Department of Interior will honor the U.S. Virgin Islands and the Hebrew Congregation of St. Thomas at a ceremony formally designating the St. Thomas Synagogue as a National Historic Landmark.

On behalf of the Congress of the United States of America, I congratulate the Hebrew Congregation of St. Thomas on attaining this honor and salute them for their dedicated service and contributions to the United States Virgin Islands.

TRIBUTE TO BRIAN M. O'LAUGHLIN

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2000

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a noteworthy resident of the Third Congressional District of Kansas, Brian M. O'Laughlin, who lives in Prairie Village, Kansas, with his wife, Mimi, and their four sons.

Mr. O'Laughlin recently was named "Man of the Year" by the Missouri Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors for his service and leadership to his industry, community and clientele. He has been in the insurance and financial services industry in the Kansas City area for the past 17 years, where his practice specializes in insurance.

Mr. O'Laughlin is a past president of the Kansas City Life Underwriters Association [KCLUA] and currently serves on its board. KCLUA awarded him its highest honor in January 1999, as the "Herbert Hedges Man of the Year." He also has served his community as president of the Rockhurst High School Alumni Association and as the assistant coach and general manager of the Junior Blues High School Rugby Club. He was awarded the American Red Cross "Certification of Recognition for Extraordinary Personal Action" in July

1977 for resuscitating a two year old boy in a 1976 swimming pool accident.

Mr. O'Laughlin is: a charter member of the Serra Club of Johnson County, Kansas; past school board member of St. Ann's School and former PTA co-president, with Mimi O'Laughlin. He currently serves on the finance council for St. Ann's Catholic Church in Prairie Village, Kansas. He has been involved with organizations such as: the Leukemia Society; the Chamber of Commerce of Greater Kansas City; the Salvation Army, the Heart Association; Friends of the Arts and Friends of the Zoo; and the "Leave a Legacy" Foundation.

Finally, Brian O'Laughlin has coached over twenty five seasons of soccer, basketball and rugby. He also is a certified "International Doping Control Officer" for various international sports organizations and tests world class athletes for steroid use to ensure fair competition and the safety of the athletes.

Mr. Speaker, Brian O'Laughlin is the kind of concerned citizen whose selfless dedication to others binds our communities together. I commend him on his recognition as "Man of the Year" by the Missouri Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors and I am pleased to have this opportunity to publicly commend his good works before the House of Representatives.

HONORING SISTER CATHERINE MORAN

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2000

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained in New York and missed the opening ceremonies of today's session. Accordingly, I deeply regret not being here in person to greet Sister Catherine Moran, who delivered the opening prayer earlier this afternoon.

In recent years, while there have been other clergy women who have had the honor of leading this body in its opening prayer, I understand, however, that Sister Catherine Moran is the first person who has never been ordained to be afforded this honor. Truly, this was an historic occasion.

However, Sister Catherine's entire life has been one of breaking precedent. Born in Brooklyn, she entered the convent on September 8, 1945, receiving a Masters Degree in Education from St. John's University, and advanced certificates in Administration from both Hofstra University and the State University of New York in Plattsburgh.

From 1975 until 1983, Sister Catherine Moran was the Principal at Albertus Magnus High School in Bardonia, New York. Albertus Magnus has long been one of the most prestigious and respected high schools in my Congressional District, and its luster is due in good part to the outstanding leadership which Sister afforded during her eight year tenure as its Principal.

Although she is still affiliated with the Dominican Convent in Sparkill, New York, for the past 14 years Sister has traveled over the border into New Jersey, where she serves the New Community Corporation in Newark as Human Resources director. Her outstanding service in this capacity earned the attention of

our colleague from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE), who sponsored Sister's participation in our opening ceremonies today.

Mr. Speaker, I would like all of our colleagues to be aware that on October 20th of this year, Sister Catherine Moran will be the recipient of the 2000 Founders Award from St. Thomas Aquinas College in my Congressional District, in Sparkill, NY. This highly prestigious award is presented annually to the individual who has exemplified the motto of St. Thomas Aquinas College: "Enlighten the Mind through Truth."

I plan to be on hand at the Aquinas Medal banquet this year as this truly remarkable woman is recognized for her compassion and for her service to humanity.

Mr. Speaker, it is notable that our opening prayer today was delivered by a truly unique individual who made history by being here with us.

TRIBUTE TO RAJ SOIN

HON. DAVID L. HOBSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2000

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding Ohioan and an individual who has helped to show that the American Dream can become a reality.

Raj Soin came to this country from India in 1969 to attend graduate school. The airline which brought him to this country lost his luggage and Mr. Soin began his American odyssey with \$3 and only the clothes he was wearing. Through hard work and determination, he received his degree and began a career with Williams International in Michigan.

By 1984, Mr. Soin had created Modern Technologies Corporation and established it in Dayton to be near Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and its extensive military research facilities. As his businesses grew, he never forgot the importance of family. His wife and sons have publicly praised his ability to balance his professional and family commitments.

Mr. Soin is currently president and CEO of MTC International, a parent company for a number of high-tech and manufacturing businesses involving engineering, consulting work for the military, computer applications and services, plastic materials and land development. Mr. Soin is living proof that America is still a land of opportunity.

Mr. Soin's belief that the best investment is an investment in good people has given him a vision of excellence and helped him provide crucial leadership to Wright State University. Mr. Soin is committed to Wright State's development as a premier institution of higher learning and he has consistently demonstrated his ability to help this dream take form.

While building his own successful business ventures, Raj Soin has served on Wright State University's Board of Trustees since 1993 as well as its Business College Board of Advisors. He also serves on the boards of the Victoria Theatre, the Dayton Foundation, and the Ohio Business Roundtable. Additionally, he founded the Asian Indian American Business Group in 1987 and the Ohio India Project which raises funds for charitable work.

As a result of his steadfast support, Wright State University publicly recognized Mr. Soin